Wisconsin
Department of Natural Resources NEWS

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Special Edition
Gypsy Moth Awareness Week

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Oct. 5-12 designated 'Gypsy Moth Awareness Week' in Wisconsin

MADISON – In an effort to make the public aware of the threat that gypsy moths pose to their property and the options they have to prevent such damage Gov. Scott McCallum has designated Oct. 6-12, 2002 as Gypsy Moth Awareness Week in Wisconsin.

While people are probably most aware of the state's gypsy moth problem in June and July – when the moths are in the caterpillar stage that causes the most damage to trees – Gypsy Moth Awareness Week is being held in October because late fall and winter are when people should be preparing to lessen gypsy moth problems next year, according to Andrea Diss, gypsy moth program coordinator for the Department of Natural Resources.

"It might not seem the most obvious choice of timing, but it really is optimal," Diss says. "Now is the time for landowners to determine if gypsy moth is going to be a problem for them next summer. If they do have a gypsy moth problem, now is the time that homeowners can identify and destroy gypsy moth egg masses to reduce next year's caterpillar population. Now is also the time landowners should apply for the DNR suppression program if their gypsy moth problem is so big that they need an aerial spray to bring the pest under control."

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Gypsy moth history and suppression programs

The gypsy moth, *Lymantria dispar*, is an exotic forest pest that was first introduced into eastern North America in the 1860s and have spread by a combination of natural movement and accidental human transport. Gypsy moths were first detected in Wisconsin in 1971 but didn't get a permanent hold until 1989, when gypsy moths became established all along the Lake Michigan shoreline. Since then, gypsy moths have slowly moved westward and are currently established in 32 counties in the eastern third of the state.

"Gypsy moths can't move very fast on their own," Diss says. "The female moths can't fly, so they lay the eggs for next year's generation close to where they grew up."

However, she adds, gypsy moths take advantage of our mobile society and often are moved long distances when their eggs are transported on things to which they were attached.

"Gypsy moths lay eggs in odd places such as on firewood, outdoor furniture or the undersides of vehicles as well as more expected spots such as tree trunks," she says.

To slow the establishment of gypsy moth across the state, the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection (DATCP) enforces regulations on products that could accidentally transport gypsy moth. Where pioneering colonies of the pest are found in the central and western counties, DATCP staff treat them with insecticide or material to disrupt mating, preventing these colonies from contributing to the spread of the gypsy moth.

Free publications that describe how people such as campers, as well as those who work in forest and Christmas tree-growing industries, can avoid transporting gypsy moths are available by calling toll-free 1-800-642-MOTH. People cans also call that number in late winter to find out more about what areas may be treated to slow the spread of gypsy moth in western and central Wisconsin.

Once gypsy moths are established in an area, Diss says, they will eventually start a boom and bust population cycle.

"For about ten years gypsy moths will be present at low levels and most people won't even know they're there. Then favorable weather in spring will allow the population to explode from one year to the next. People start to notice the caterpillars in the building year, but the following year is when they are everywhere and strip tree of their leaves in late June," Diss says.

Once trees are defoliated, the caterpillars start to starve and the population usually crashes from the effects of hunger and disease. It is usually about another ten years before the next outbreak develops, she says. Outbreaks can be limited to a few acres or cause defoliation over thousands of acres.

"This past summer, we had spots of defoliation of 40 or so acres in the southeastern counties, while in Marinette, 30,000 contiguous acres were defoliated," she says.

Outbreaks are stressful to both the trees that are stripped of leaves and the to the people who have to live in areas where they are occurring.

"While it is not possible to prevent the eventual development of outbreaks, there are quite a few things people can do to minimize or prevent the negative impacts, and the DNR gypsy moth suppression coordinators can help them in these efforts," Diss says.

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Identifying gypsy moths

Gypsy moths spend approximately nine months, from late July or August until the following May, in the egg stage. This makes this one of the easiest times to find and identify outbreaks. Gypsy moth egg masses are very recognizable. They can be up to 1.5 inches long and 1 inch wide – though smaller ones are common – and are typically tear-drop shaped. Egg masses containing eggs that will hatch next spring are brown to tan or yellow. The masses are firm, and furry or felt like. Egg masses can contain up to 1,000 eggs, and each female deposits one egg mass. Old egg masses, which are empty, pale and torn up, may persist into the following fall.

Egg masses can be found in many locations. In forests, they are found primarily on the trunk and the underside of tree branches. In residential areas, egg masses are found on almost everything – houses, gutters, firewood piles, birdbaths, lawn furniture, and vehicles; they can occur anywhere and on anything near the trees on which the caterpillars feed.

Caterpillars start hatching in early May but are small and difficult to identify until June. By then they will be about an inch long and hairy. They are gray, with pairs of colored warts down the back, which are blue near the head and red toward the rear. In mid June, the caterpillars start leaving the trees to rest during the day, a unique behavior. Feeding and the resulting defoliation will peak in early July**,** and the caterpillars will pupate soon after.

Adult moths can be distinguished from other moths by their behavior. Female gypsy moths are white and while they have wings, are incapable of flight. Males are 1 inch long, brown and fly looking for females in the late afternoon.

Where are gypsy moths established in Wisconsin?

First detected in Wisconsin in 1971, gypsy moths have been found in all the counties along the Lake Michigan shoreline since 1990 and in nearly every county of Wisconsin since then. Gypsy moth populations are firmly established in 32 counties in eastern Wisconsin.

The counties infested with gypsy moths are: Brown, Calumet, Columbia, Dodge, Door, Fond du Lac, Florence, Forest, Green Lake, Jefferson, Kenosha, Kewaunee, Langlade, Manitowoc, Marinette, Menominee, Milwaukee, Oconto, Outagamie, Ozaukee, Portage, Racine, Rock, Shawano, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago, and Wood.

The gypsy moth is established in the eastern third of the state, but only parts of this area will experience outbreaks and defoliation in any given year. This summer, defoliation was most severe in western Marinette County. Scattered defoliation was also seen in Waupaca, Waushara, Portage, and Waukesha Counties and also in the greater Milwaukee area. Next year, outbreaks are expected to develop in areas bordering those defoliated this summer. Spots of defoliation may occur in other areas in the counties along the Lake Michigan shoreline. People who own property in western Wisconsin, are unlikely to have problems with gypsy moths for five or more years yet.

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Why are gypsy moths a problem?

Where gypsy moths are established, they go through a cycle of low, almost unnoticeable population levels for about ten years followed by a population explosion that causes heavy defoliation and typically lasts one to two years in a location. It is these population explosions, called outbreaks, which cause concern. During outbreaks caterpillars are everywhere in late June and early July. They feed voraciously and strip many trees of their foliage. Most trees will recover from the defoliation but some will die or suffer dieback of their crowns. Caterpillars also roam in large numbers trying to find food. When they come in contact with people, they may cause them distress and may cause allergic skin reactions.

While the eventual development of outbreaks can't be prevented, the health of trees and forests can be improved so that fewer trees die or suffer growth loss. The public can also work with state officials to prevent defoliation by taking measures to suppress the pest population in selected areas with insecticide treatments.

Who should be most concerned about gypsy moths?

The type of trees people have growing on their property can also influence whether they will have gypsy moth problems. While gypsy moths can eat most types of trees, they do best and their population increases most rapidly in areas where they can feed on oaks, crabapples, willows or aspen. The most rapid development of outbreaks is where oaks grow in lawns. In this situation, the caterpillars are protected from predation by deer mice, the most important predator of gypsy moth caterpillars. The mice won't cross short grass where they are exposed to cats or owls and so the gypsy moth caterpillars feed unharassed and the population of the pest on these trees can increase to damaging levels within a few years of introduction. There are some trees that the gypsy moth doesn't feed on, green ash, locust and Scotch pine being the more common species in Wisconsin. People who have these types of trees in their yards are unlikely to ever have much of a problem with gypsy moths.

Warning Signs of the Development of an Outbreak

Landowners who saw caterpillars came down out of the treetops to rest on tree trunks during the afternoon in June and early July, may have gypsy moths and the caterpillars may be abundant enough to cause damage to trees next summer. To predict whether the population of gypsy moths is high enough to defoliate trees, people should look around their property for gypsy moth egg masses. The, teardrop-shaped masses are about 1.5 inches long and look like they are made of light brown felt. The egg masses can be found on tree trunks, undersides of branches, sides of buildings or anywhere else there are protected nooks and crannies. If there are several to many egg masses per tree in a yard or throughout the neighborhood, there may be a problem with defoliation from gypsy moth next year.

Anyone who finds egg masses in these numbers may want to consider applying to the suppression program for a treatment next spring. People who find gypsy moth egg masses on one or two trees, but there are many on each, can contact a certified arborist to treat just those trees. Anyone who has have only a few egg masses in their yard, can scrape them off and destroy them. Microwaving the egg masses for two minutes on high or soaking them for two days in soapy water before discarding them in the trash will do the job.

# # #

Management options to reduce gypsy moth damage to woodlots

As gypsy moth populations continue to become established in Wisconsin, the threat of damage to woodlots increases. Once gypsy moths are established, populations will periodically increase to very high numbers in what are called outbreaks. Such outbreaks can strip entire forests of leaves in late June. While most trees will be able to produce a replacement set of leaves, this is stressful and can leave trees vulnerable to attack by disease or other insects that can kill them. Trees that are stressed prior to being defoliated may die as a result. While it is not possible to prevent outbreaks, there are forest management measures that landowners can take to help ensure trees are strong enough to recover from this stress.

Silviculture to reduce damage from gypsy moth outbreaks

There are two general approaches that woodlot owners throughout Wisconsin can take to improve the ability of forests to weather attacks by gypsy moths.

The first is to improve the vigor of all trees in the forest by regular thinning to appropriate stocking levels. Trees that have enough room, but not too much, will maintain vigorous growth. Removing weak or stressed trees, eliminates those trees that would be most likely to die following defoliation and frees up resources for use by their more robust neighbors.

The second approach is to manipulate the diversity of trees in a woodlot to minimize the impact of a gypsy moth outbreak. In woodlots dominated by deciduous trees, maintaining diverse tree species reduces the losses from gypsy moth and other forest pests. Oaks are a favorite food of gypsy moth and will still be badly defoliated when outbreaks occur. Other less favored tree species, however, will not be as affected, and thus the losses from a forest will be lower than in a solid stand of oak. The presence of non-preferred species such as ash, maples, and hickories will also increase the survival of heavily defoliated trees by providing shade and preventing the soil from drying out and further stressing the injured tree.

Woodlot owners who grow conifers should remove understory or bordering oaks, hazelnut, service berry and witch hazel, which can act as nurseries for gypsy moth caterpillars. The pest will start out feeding on the deciduous trees and shrubs and then move on to damage the pines. Woodlot owners who have stands of young white pines coming in under pin oaks or aspen, may want to consider removing the overstory and releasing the pines. If the overstory of preferred oaks or aspen is still in place when gypsy moths go into an outbreak, the caterpillars will strip the older trees and then finish off the young pines that may die as a result.

Thinning or harvesting operations should be conducted two or more years prior to an anticipated outbreak or one to two years after an outbreak to reduce additional stress to residual trees. For more information on silviculture to reduce damage from gypsy moth outbreaks, request Forestry Facts #83, Forest Management Strategies to Minimize the Impact of the Gypsy Moth, from any DNR Service Center.

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Insecticide treatments to prevent defoliation

For woodlot owners in the eastern half of Wisconsin, there are some situations when spraying with an insecticide is an appropriate option for woodlots threatened by an outbreak of gypsy moths. It may be worth paying for protection of stands of veneer quality red oak if severe defoliation is predicted. Regenerating oak seedlings and sapling under a shelter wood would also benefit significantly from spraying to prevent defoliation and subsequent mortality of the young trees. In other forestry situations, the landowner must weigh the cost of the spray with the value saved by the next harvest. In situations where the woodlot is used for recreation or surrounds a home, however, the value of protecting the foliage goes up dramatically.

Woodlot owners can apply to the DNR gypsy moth suppression program for treatment by contacting the suppression coordinator for the county where their property is located.

[EDITOR'S NOTE:** Gypsy moth suppression coordinators are listed after the next article.**]

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Fall is time to apply for state gypsy moth suppression program

People and communities interested in having gypsy moth suppression efforts carried out next spring on their woodlots or in their neighborhood need to prepare applications this fall for the Department of Natural Resources Gypsy Moth Suppression Program. This program is only available in part of the state with known infestations, which is approximately the eastern third of Wisconsin.

The program is intended to help communities protect tree health by limiting or preventing defoliation by conducting aerial application of a bacterial insecticide called *Bacillus thuringiensis kurstaki*, or Btk for short. The substance is a microbial insecticide that is specific to caterpillars.

"Communities or individuals may apply for the suppression program," says Andrea Diss, gypsy moth control coordinator for the Department of Natural Resources. "Individuals may request that their neighborhood be considered for a suppression treatment even if they themselves don't own the minimum 40 acres for treatment. Most spray blocks include the properties of many landowners."

Generally, Diss says, individuals work through their local municipality, which applies for a cost-shared grant to cover the cost of the aerial spraying. The cost of the treatment is shared between the community or landowners and the federal government, which can reimburse up to 50 percent of the cost. Applications must be made through the county gypsy moth suppression coordinator.

The program has several criteria for participation:

- The first is that the density of gypsy moth egg masses is high enough to predict significant defoliation. Program egg mass surveyors will visit properties to determine if the population of gypsy moth is high enough to qualify. If the population is too low, less than 500 egg masses per acre, the landowner is unlikely to suffer defoliation next summer.
- Treatment blocks must be at least 40 acres in size and compact in shape. Typically, several to many landowners will band together to make up a block of minimum size or larger.
- Finally, the canopy cover must be at least 50 percent and at least half of the trees must be preferred species.

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These last criteria is generally not a difficulty in Wisconsin. For more information on the cost shared suppression program contact one of the following DNR regional gypsy moth suppression coordinators or go to the gypsy moth pages of the DNR Web site at http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/fh/GM/index.htm.

Anyone interested in having a suppression treatment done next spring to prevent defoliation in June, should get in touch this fall with the DNR regional gypsy moth suppression coordinators for the county where their land is located.

Counties served	**DNR gypsy moth suppression coordinators**
Crawford, Columbia, Dane, Dodge, Green, Grant, Iowa, Jefferson, Lafayette, Richland, Rock, Sauk	Mark Guthmiller South Central Region DNR-Fitchburg 3911 Fish Hatchery Rd. Fitchburg, WI 53711 Phone: (608)-275-3223 Fax: (608)-275-3236
Brown, Calumet, Door, Fond du Lac, Green Lake, Kewaunee, Manitowoc, Marinette, Marquette, Menominee, Oconto, Outagamie, Shawano, Waupaca, Waushara, Winnebago	Bill McNee North East Region DNR-Green Bay 1125 N. Military Ave., PO BOX 10448 Green Bay, WI 54307-0448 Phone: (920)-492-5930 Fax: (920)-492-5913
Kenosha, Milwaukee, Ozaukee, Racine, Sheboygan, Walworth, Washington, Waukesha	John Kyhl South East Region DNR-Milwaukee 2300 N. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. DR. PO BOX 12436 Milwaukee, WI 53212 Phone: (414)-263-8744 Fax: (414)-263-8661

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[EDITOR'S ADVISORY: *This Special Edition of the DNR News is being distributed to select media and outlets within areas of Wisconsin that have gypsy moth infestations. Photos of gypsy moths and gypsy moth control efforts can be found on both the DNR and University of Wisconsin Cooperative Extension Web sites at the following URLs:*

DNR <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/land/forestry/fh/GM/index.htm>
UWEX: <http://www1.uwex.edu/ces/gypsymoth/index.cfm> ***]***

Physical control of gypsy moths

This summer many residents of eastern Wisconsin noticed burlap sacks wrapped around trees in their neighborhoods. These burlap sacks are a visible reminder of the presence of gypsy moths in the area, and are one of several methods of physically controlling gypsy moth populations.

"The gypsy moth life cycle has four stages (egg, larva, pupa, and adult), and for each of these stages there are physical control methods that landowners can use to help reduce an infestation," says Bill McNee, DNR Gypsy Moth Suppression Coordinator in Green Bay. "These techniques are especially useful when a moderate infestation is confined to a few trees or when a homeowner doesn't want to use insecticide."

Female moths lay egg masses on trees, houses, firewood piles, and other outdoor objects.

"Destroying egg masses can really pay off," McNee says. "Since a single egg mass contains many eggs, each egg mass that is destroyed can prevent the feeding of several hundred caterpillars. Since a single caterpillar can consume nearly a square yard of foliage in its lifetime, destroying one egg mass can save a lot of leaves."

From August through April, landowners can suffocate egg masses by spraying horticultural oil such as Golden Pest Spray Oil or Volck Oil available at many garden centers and nurseries, McNee says. Golden Pest Spray Oil should be mixed 50/50 with water (follow the label directions) and then sprayed onto the egg mass with a spray bottle until it is soaked. Adding food coloring to the mixture can help people identify which ones have been treated.

Egg masses can also be removed and drowned in soapy water for several days or microwaved on high for two minutes before being discarded in the trash.

"Landowners should not scrape the eggs onto the ground, because they will still hatch," McNee says. "Oiling or removing egg masses within reach is an easy way to reduce the population, because every egg mass that is treated will result in 500 to 1,000 fewer caterpillars next May."

In April, before the first caterpillars hatch, homeowners can create a sticky barrier that will prevent wandering caterpillars from crawling up a tree. They should begin by wrapping duct tape around a tree several times, sticky side facing the tree and pressed into bark crevices. Then, a sticky substance such as "Tanglefoot" should be smeared on top of the tape.

In mid- to late June, caterpillars will have grown to about three-quarters of an inch long, and many will begin a daily migration down the tree in order to hide from predators. Landowners can take advantage of this behavior by giving them a hiding place and then destroying them. This is where the burlap sacks come into play. In early June, find a piece of burlap 12 to 18 inches wide and long enough to wrap completely around the tree at chest height. Tie a piece of string around the middle of the burlap and fold the upper portion down to form a "skirt" around the tree. Every afternoon, check under the burlap and either cut the caterpillars in half or brush them into a bucket of soapy water to kill them. Sticky bands and burlap bands can be removed in August once the caterpillars are gone.

To attack the pupae and adult moths in July and August, simply crush them. The pupae (also known as cocoons) are brown shells in which the adult moth forms. "The white female moth can't fly, and people can crush them before they lay eggs," McNee says. "Some homeowners have also found that they can wash females away with a strong stream of water from a hose before they start laying eggs."

# # #

Natural enemies help control gypsy moth outbreaks

People who are having problems with the gypsy moths, have a number of allies in controlling this insect. Fungi and viruses that attack caterpillars along with small parasitic wasps that attack egg masses can play a role in reducing and causing the collapse of gypsy moth populations, according to John Kyhl, Department of Natural Resources gypsy moth suppression coordinator in Milwaukee.

One of the major natural enemies of gypsy moth, Kyhl says, is *Entomophaga maimaiga*, the fungal disease of the caterpillar stage. This fungus is present both at low and high gypsy moth population levels and is most prevalent during years with wet cool spring weather. This year outbreaks of this beneficial fungus were detected killing large numbers of caterpillars in Columbia, Waukesha, and Waupaca counties. DNR staff and foresters from cities and counties collected disease-killed caterpillars to inoculate other areas infested with gypsy moth. Although the fungus will move well on its own via air borne spores, releasing the fungus speeds up the process of getting it into a newly building population.

Another major natural enemy of the gypsy moth is the Nucleopolyhedrosis virus (NPV). This virus is endemic in the gypsy moth population and appears when gypsy moth populations are very high and the caterpillars are under stress from starvation, Kyhl says. The virus is usually the main cause of gypsy moth outbreak collapses, once caterpillars have become stressed by starvation following defoliation of the trees. Outbreaks of the virus were present in Columbia, Waukesha, Waupaca, and Marinette counties this year.

“The fungal and viral diseases are often present together in a collapsing gypsy moth population,” Kyhl says.

The diseases can be distinguished based on appearance of dead caterpillars. The fungal disease causes dead caterpillars to hang head down in a straight line and are often covered with the fungus giving it a sugar-dusted appearance. The virus on the other hand causes the dead caterpillars to hang in an inverted “V” shape and has a very wet slimy appearance.

Another natural gypsy moth enemy is a tiny parasitic wasp, which Kyhl says can account for up to 40 percent mortality of a gypsy moth population. Starting in late August and remaining active until the first few frosts, the wasp, *Ooencyrtus kuvanae*, parasitizes gypsy moth eggs.

“The wasp eggs hatch and the larvae feed inside the gypsy moth eggs, destroying them,” he says.

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Parasitized egg masses can be identified by looking for small, round emergence holes (like big pinholes) made by the new wasps to get out of the gypsy moth egg mass. Adult wasps can often be seen sitting on or near the egg masses that they emerged from or are in the process of parasitizing. The adult wasps look like gnats, and do not sting humans.

Kyhl says in areas where the wasps are present, gypsy moth egg masses should be left alone until the wasps are finished feeding in mid- to late October.

"Letting them complete their life cycle allows their population to build up and leads to more parasitized gypsy moth eggs, especially in places that people can't see or reach," he says.

After the first few hard frosts, the wasps are done for the year and people can start egg masses control efforts, such as treating masses with oil or scraping them off and destroying them.

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Move possessions, not gypsy moths

MADISON—Anyone planning to move across the state or country in the future or preparing to pack up and head south to escape the cold Wisconsin winters should make sure they are not taking any gypsy moths along with them.

"We've found that the main movement for the gypsy moth is with the general public," says Stacy Chic, gypsy moth specialist with the Wisconsin Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection's Slow the Spread program. "We have worked closely with the timber, nursery and Christmas tree industries, but we need to increase the public's awareness about this destructive pest that can strip forests bare."

Slow the Spread program staff are working to educate the public about these wayfaring insects, and what people can do to slow the movement of gypsy moths across Wisconsin and the United States.

"If you are moving outdoor items from an infested area into a non-infested area or out of the state, we strongly encourage you to check these items for gypsy moth egg masses," Chic says. "Female gypsy moths will lay their eggs in any good hiding place. We've found the egg masses just about everywhere."

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Some places egg masses have been found are under decks or picnic tables, inside birdhouses, on patio furniture, gardening equipment, toys, campers, trailers, firewood, even vehicles.

Gypsy moth egg masses are fuzzy brown patches about the size of a quarter, and can hold up to 1,000 eggs. Come spring, these eggs will hatch into voracious caterpillars that will start feeding on the leaves of trees and bushes. While oaks are one of their favorites, gypsy moth caterpillars will feed on more than 600 different varieties of trees.

Chic advises to thoroughly check the all surfaces of outdoor items including the underside.

Anyone who finds gypsy moth egg masses, can use a putty knife or stiff brush to scrape them into a bucket of hot soapy water or a mild bleach solution. “You should wear gloves because the egg masses are covered in a fine hair that can be irritating to the skin. Don’t scrape the egg masses onto the ground, they may hatch next spring,” Chic says. After a day or two, drain the water and place the egg masses in the trash.

The federal government requires that logs, landscaping trees and shrubs, and Christmas trees be inspected and certified to be free of gypsy moths when these products move out of an area infested with gypsy moths.

“The industry is aware of these requirements,” says John Domino, another gypsy moth specialist in the Slow the Spread program. “For the regular citizen, you can do your own inspection and verify that your possessions are free from gypsy moth egg masses. This is especially useful because some states may do border checks to see that you aren’t carrying this pest.”

The United States Department of Agriculture has prepared a brochure entitled, “Don’t Move Gypsy Moth.” The back of the brochure carries a checklist to guide people through inspections. A copy of the brochure is available in portable document format on the USDA gypsy moth Web site at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/oa/pubs/brogm01.pdf> or people can request a copy by calling the Wisconsin Cooperative Gypsy Moth Hotline at 1-800-642-MOTH.

“In case your possessions are checked during the move, give a copy of this list to the driver of the moving van or if you are moving yourself, keep the list with you,” Domino recommends.

“We want people to understand that they have the power to protect our forests across Wisconsin and the country just by checking their outdoor items so they don’t transport gypsy moth egg masses. The goal of our Slow the Spread program is to spread the word, not the moth,” Domino said.

Direct questions about gypsy moths to the Gypsy Moth Hotline at 1-800-642-6684 or send an email to gypsymoth@datcp.state.wi.us.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT: Contact: Jane Larson - (608) 224-5005

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INFORMATION

WISCONSIN

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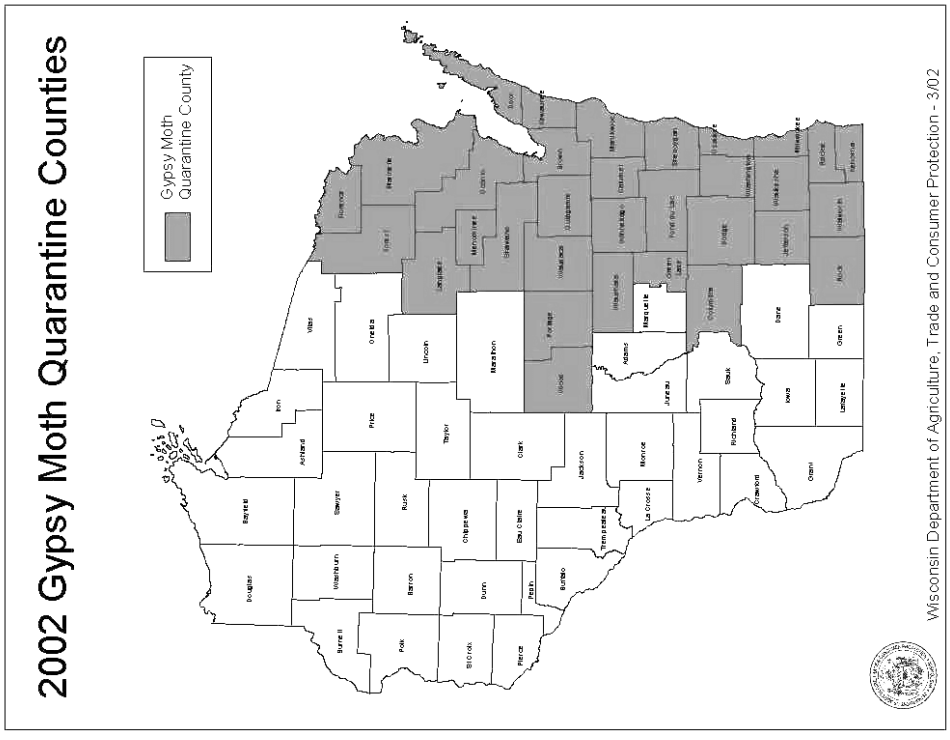

Gypsy moths can be abundant enough on property located within the quarantined counties, to cause defoliation in certain areas. In unquarantined counties, gypsy moths are still very rare and it would be unusual for this pest to be a problem.